

Routine

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : U.S. Mission, Berlin

322

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

November 17, 1955  
DATE

REF :

|                              |                |                  |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 4-5<br>For Dept.<br>Use Only | ACTION         | DEPT.            | I<br>N<br>F<br>OTHER |
|                              | REC'D          |                  |                      |
|                              | FOR-9<br>11/25 | RTM/R-2<br>CIA-7 |                      |
|                              |                | OL-6<br>Army-4   |                      |
|                              |                | SCS-2<br>Av-3    |                      |
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|                              |                | PPT-2            |                      |
|                              |                | R-1              |                      |
|                              |                | SY-2             |                      |

SUBJECT: Alleged American Citizen Imprisoned in USSR -- Major Frank POSCH.

The following is a translation of a letter received in this office from a former prisoner held in the Soviet Zone.

October 28, 1955

Subject: US Air Force Major Frank Posch, Cleveland

I am a returnee and was a political prisoner in Siberia, and since October 20, 1955 I am back in the free world via camp Friedland.

During my stay in the Berisilka of Tschellabinsk (USSR) in September 1953 I met the US Air Force Major Frank Posch, who had been put by mistake in a collective cell. The NKVD noticed their error quickly, and took him away again. During the few hours I became friends with Posch, who spoke German very well, and he asked me, if I should ever be released, to immediately inform his office (FBI), as well as his family in Cleveland.

Already at that time, Posch was a sick man, and to judge from his condition at that time, it is questionable if he is still alive. Posch had just come back from one of his numerous interrogations in Moscow, which always took about six weeks, and during which he had been asked for years to work for the Soviet press and speak over the radio. Posch had always refused. After this time he was transported back to "Werch Uralsk" a prison camp 175 km distant from Tschellabinsk by air, which could only be reached by planes. During his time also the Soviet Air Force General Novikoff was held there. Posch told of the extremely bad food, and many cases of death on account of dysentery.

As far as I remember, Posch was arrested in 1946 by the NKVD when flying from Vienna to Budapest or Bukarest shortly after he had landed, inspite of the official Soviet authorization,

and

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AND sentenced as an American spy. Posch told me, that as a member of the US Military Mission in Vienna, he was on the way via Belgrad (meeting with Tito) to Budapest. The number of his plane and other details which I took down, I lost due to the long period of time and chicaneries of the NKVD.

Posch is married in Cleveland and has one child. I remember nothing besides the name Frank Posch and his home state, so I would like to request you to give me his address, so that I can comply with his request. Maybe the name USFA, which Posch gave me especially, means something to you.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Rolf Kreubel."

There is no information concerning Posch in the files of the Consulate nor in those of other agencies in Berlin.

For the Assistant Chief of Mission:

*Malcolm Teon*  
Malcolm Teon  
American Consul

cc: Moscow  
Bohn

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION

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~~2335~~  
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NO. A-97, January 27, 1956,

SUBJECT: Major Frank Posch, alleged American citizen imprisoned in the Soviet Union

TO: The United States Mission, Berlin

The Department has carried on an appropriate investigation with a view to establishing the identity and citizenship of Major Frank Posch, reported by the German returnee Rolf Kreubel as an officer of the U.S. Air Force, United States Forces, Austria, imprisoned at Chelyabinsk, USSR, in September 1953. (U.S. Mission Berlin despatch 222, November 17, 1955).

Upon the basis of the information given by Mr. Kreubel in his letter to the United States Mission and in a similar letter addressed by him to the President on November 4, 1955, the Department has been unable to establish the identity of the alleged American citizen Frank Posch. A search of the records of the Passport Division of the Department, of the Department of Defense and of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has disclosed no information which could be established as referring to this person.

If the Mission has no objection, it is requested that a letter be sent to Mr. Rolf Kreubel in reply to the letter which he sent to the President informing him in the sense of the above finding.

DULLES

*Copy sent to Ambassador Moscow*

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JAN 27 1956 PM